

Regional Skills Alliance: KAL-TEC

KAL-TEC is a Michigan Regional Skills Alliance offering a broad range of educational opportunities to the people of Kalkaska County. A rural community of just over 17,000 people, Kalkaska County suffers from low wages, low educational attainment, and high unemployment. KAL-TEC aims to upgrade the skills of the workforce in order to attract new businesses and improve the community. Through KAL-TEC, regional educational providers bring their existing classes to locations throughout the county, enabling the community to participate without the extensive cost of transportation to Traverse City. Providers offer occupational skills trainings, computer skills, family and life improvement courses, small business start-up assistance, "soft skills" trainings such as communication and teamwork, and Adult Education/GED.

Kalkaska Memorial Hospital, the largest employer in the county, has been a vital partner in KAL-TEC. They assist with marketing, provide some of the health care courses in the KAL-TEC curriculum, and lend credibility because of their strong standing in the community. The Administrator of the hospital, Jim Austin, is a member of the KAL-TEC Steering Committee, and is very supportive of the program. Also a member of the Kalkaska Chamber of Commerce, he believes in investing in the workforce. "In order for a community to grow stronger it needs more jobs; in order to fill those jobs, people are needed who can add value in a knowledge-based economy," says Austin.

Kalkaska Memorial Hospital has already seen the benefits of supporting this Regional Skills Alliance. A Basic Healthcare class was offered through another partner, Community Services Network. This class introduced healthcare careers to those who were interested in CNA certification, and/or nursing school. It gave students a realistic, hands-on experience in working with patients. According to Austin, this class strengthened the skills of some people enough that they were admitted to the CNA program at Kalkaska Memorial Hospital, when they were previously not considered for the program.

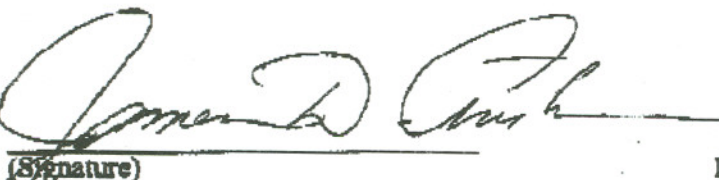
"MiRSAs are a great way for government to work with business; they fill a gap in training needs," says Austin. "As businesses work hard to survive, they may not have the funds to conduct the kind of cutting-edge training that a Regional Skills Alliance can provide."

20-081506-01

Approval/Release

The notes above are an accurate account of my interview regarding the Michigan Regional Skills Alliance in which I participate. I authorize the RSA and the State of Michigan to disseminate the story publicly.

- ☒ You may use my name and the name of my business.
☐ You may not use identifying information, only the content of the interview.


(Signature)

Date: 8-11-06



Northwest Michigan Council of Governments

Northwest
MICHIGAN
WORKS!

Let Our Resources Work For You.

www.nwm.org

To:	Jamie Cooper	From:	Jamie McNabb
Fax #:	517-335-5945	Pages:	1 + cover
Phone:		Date:	8-15-06
Re:		CC:	

☐ Urgent ☐ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Per Your Request ☐ For Your Information / Attention

Comments:

Employer sign-off on
RSA Interview

Thanks!
Jamie

Antrim • Benzie • Charlevoix • Emmet • Grand Traverse • Kalkaska • Leelanau • Manistee • Missaukee • Wexford

P. O. Box 506 • Traverse City, MI 49685-0506 • Phone (231) 929-5000 • Fax (231) 929-5012

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities
Michigan Relay Center callers use 711 or 1-800-649-3777